

JOHNSON, FRED

INTERVIEW

#12868

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BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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Field Worker's name Grace KelleyThis report made on (date) January 14, 1938

1. Name Fred Johnson
2. Post Office Address Henryetta, Route 2.
3. Residence address (or location) Tulsa Thlocco Town, 10 miles E. of
Henryetta, Oklahoma.
4. DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1866
5. Place of birth Muskogee.

6. Name of Father Charlie Johnson Place of birth Indian
Territory.

Other information about father _____

7. Name of Mother Dorcas Johnson Place of birth Indian
Territory.

Other information about mother Fred Johnson is mixed blood-colored and Creek.

Notes or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story of the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions. Continue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached 4.

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Grace Kelley,
Investigator.
January 14, 1938.

"HITCHITA TOWN"

The members of Hitchita town used to go to Dewar for their dances and to take their medicine but a bunch of them lived east of there a long way and it was too far for them to go. So they moved or changed the town east of here about fifteen miles. That would be about twenty-five miles east of Henryetta or south of Council Hill. They have no Busk now. This is the Tulwa Thlocco Town.

These meetings and the taking of medicine is the old ancestors' way--a kind of religion. Red Root was their medicine. Willie Lablanc was a Mico or king. Timmie Fife of Sapulpa was a Mico and is still living though he is eighty years old. They believed in witchcraft so there was a doctor who was a spirit doctor as well as a medical doctor.

Every year, once a year, we would have a ball game with some of the western people of the Creek

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Nation. They would start for fun but were so rough that someone was pretty sure to get mad and start a fight.

My mother and father were in the Civil War and went to Kansas. They had a hard time. They suffered from the cold and hunger and lots of the Creek Indians were taken sick and died. Lots of them did not have shoes to wear and as they left in a hurry they did not have hardly any clothing or bedding. They had some battles close to High Spring but I don't know the exact location.

When I was young we bought our groceries from Checotah. As it was fifteen miles away it would take a day to make the trip. We had lots of chickens, turkeys and each family had from seven to fifteen cows. They were for milking and butchering. We bought a little flour, sugar, rice, beans and coffee. We had small patches of corn, potatoes, and melons. We saved the seeds but if we didn't have enough, we could buy more at Checotah. There were wild hogs for meat.

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There were lots of wild horses. A bunch of us would chase them for about a day. A few of us would run them until our horses were getting tired then we would run them past where some of the other boys were waiting on their fresh horses. They would start out after them and we would keep the wild horses from resting at all until they were so tired that they could hardly run. Then we would rope them. They would fight but we would worry them down, then put them in a pen for about a week or so and break them to ride. We kept them for our own use.

When we went to town we always bought some beads. then when we came home we made hat bands, belts and vests. Sometimes we made patterns but other times we went by some patterns that were already made.

The Indian Police guarded around Muskogee--at least that was all I ever knew them to do. They were under the Agent at Muskogee.

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The Lighthorsemen were under the Creek Law and were for certain districts and not for the towns.

There were twelve jurors and a judge for every district.

Each town had a man, a Micco, to represent it at Okmulgee besides the warriors who made laws like Congressmen do.

Moti Tiger and Pleasant Porter were for allotment and advancement.

Chitto Harjo was against allotment and for the old way of living.